

VOLUME 19

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# BIZARRE COMIX

T.M.



TWO COMPLETE SERIALS!

In early medieval times, it was a common practice of gangs of girls to unite together into bands of marauders to raid for booty and slaves, attacking nearby countries that they could plunder and run away in their ship before the surprised victims could organize and defend themselves. One such band of girl raiders was led by a strong and domineering beauty called Helga, who led her band with an iron hand. Helga's beauty was marred by a horrible scar over and below her left eye which had been made by a falcon's claws that had come to the defense of his mistress, Princess Helena, on one of Helga's many raids on the sea coast.

This scar on her face had made Helga very vindictive towards the natives of Euroma, a mountainous country to the south of her hide-out where the falcon's attack had occurred. Helga spent all her spare time training a vicious champion falcon with which she hoped someday avenge her marred beauty by using this trained falcon to scratch the face of Princess Helena, the mistress of the falcon that had vanquished Helga, and scarred her for life. Being bitter over her disfigurement, Helga planned revenge on the girl who she thought responsible for her marred beauty, and by training the pet falcon, she hoped to tear her adversary to pieces bit by bit, and holding back on the facial assault until the last moment.

One day Helga's band captured a handmaiden of Princess Helena, whose pet falcon injured Helga, and putting her to hours of torturous inquisition made the poor maiden divulge the secret of Princess Helena's whereabouts on the mainland. At first the girl persisted in her denials that she did not know where Princess Helena had gone, but finally after undergoing hours of questioning, she broke down and confessed the location of Princess Helena's stronghold, when Helga threatened to have the falcon tear the girl's eyes out. Fearful for her life she promised to show them the way to get to Princess Helena's stronghold by a secret entrance, on the other side of the sea coast.

Helga planned a series of hit and run raids on the sea coast towns, seizing all girls who came across the path of her cutthroat raiders, planning to combine business with revenge by selling these hapless victims of her vengeance as slaves in the profitable slave markets in the east. There was no escape from Helga's band of sturdy warriors as they swooped down in surprise attacks from their ship that had sneaked into the harbor in the dark of night. They bound and gagged the unwary girls who were on their way to work and since these girls had no weapons to fight back, they fell easy prey to the well trained and experienced warriors in Helga's gang.





Helga's amazonic proportioned warriors bound their prospective slave market victims with ropes they had brought along for this purpose, binding the unfortunate girls' hands behind their backs, and gagging with cloth strips so they couldn't make an outcry and scare away other victims. The ropes cut into the flesh of the unwilling girls, but they were overpowered and unable to help themselves against these aggressive warriors.

It was Helga's plan to take the prisoners who were to be sold as slaves on her ship back to a secret hiding place where the prospective slaves were to be imprisoned until Helga had enough slave laborers to make it worthwhile to take to market. Although the prisoners were given rough and tough treatment, Helga's warriors were careful not to maim or disable the slaves they had taken in their various raids as a disabled slave was worth little or nothing therefore they were careful to use their clubs sparingly on the prisoners as they were captured.

Strong and sturdy Helga was there in the midst of the battle urging her band on giving orders with her pet falcon, who was the light of her life perched on her shoulder or arm, muttering threats at any of the gang who were careless in harming valuable prisoners fighting back tooth and nail. Binding and gagging the prisoners skillfully, Helga's band of plunderers worked away as fast as they could before the aroused villagers could summon the military from a nearby fort to help them out against Helga's band of cut-throats. Tears welled from the eyes of the prisoners as they were being tied up for they realized that it would be a long time if ever before they would see their beloved country again. Tales of the terror and horrible things that happened to slaves were brought back by slaves lucky enough to escape their life of enforced bondage at the hands of the slave traders.

The girls taken prisoners had to submit to the rough handling at the hands of Helga's raiders as they were a peace loving group of villagers whose menfolk were off to the wars, leaving them behind virtually weaponless. Also the horrors, and terrors of war had decimated most of the young men, so that the girls had to do the manual labor and chores usually done by the men who had marched away to war, thus they hated war and advocated peace at all times, making them easy prey to the skilled attacks of marauding bandits learned in many battles they had fought in the past.



Helga's overseer of the galley slaves was a big, brawny woman of nordic extraction named Ingrid and she had the strength of two men, and it was her job to see that the ship ran smoothly at all times. Ingrid was a hard taskmaster because many years before she had been a galley slave in the ships of the country of Euroma, her back showing the many welts that were the mark of having done duty as an oarsman galley slave. After many escapes had resulted in failure, Ingrid had finally escaped, and drifted back into the service of Helga to get back at the people who had hurt her. Ingrid was a vindictive person, and she took it out on the girls at the oars for the times she had been degraded at the hands of the Euroma conquerors.

Helga gave orders to her followers to retreat back to the ship, taking along all the prisoners who were able to walk, and leaving behind the dead and wounded. This was a cruel trick to play on some of her own followers, but Helga believed in the theory that discretion was the better part of valor, and she did not want to be trapped by the Militia, who no doubt would soon be rushing to the rescue.

Helga's henchwomen made their way back to Helga's waiting ship, happy that they had made such a great haul of both booty, wives and prisoners who would bring a pretty large sum in the slave markets. Throwing some of the lighter prisoners over their shoulders like a sack of wheat, they wended their way back towards the shore where shipmates with guns were protecting their getaway with the prisoners. The ships galley was almost full to overflowing with the captured slaves, many of whom were used to handle the long oars which propelled Helga's ship.

Those prisoners who were fit and able were chained with ankle cuffs as well as cuffed to the long oars with an overseer who cracked a mean whip if some of them slacked down on the job of pulling the oars. Manning the oars was a back breaking arduous job, and Helga always held a second crew of galley slaves in readiness to replace those at the oars who would break down under strain of pulling at the oars. Since most ships depended on both sail and slaves to row the ship when there was no wind for the sails, there was a continuous demand for galley slaves for this grueling task for there was no modern steam engines to run the ships should the wind break down.





The girl prisoners were gagged with pieces of cloth torn from their dresses so that they could make no protests or voice indignation at their harsh treatment. For Helga believed in the theory that if the girls talked together, they might rebel if the occasion should ever arise. The gags served the dual purpose of quelling rebellion and also kept them quiet while performing the task allotted to them in their new employment as slaves.

Just as soon as the ship was out of sight of the mainland and pursuit no longer was possible by the navy of Euroma, then Helga and her raiders would count the spoils and drink up the liquor that they had stolen from the people of Euroma. This celebration would last for days on end for it took quite some time to reach Helga's secret hideout where the booty was to be stored. Helga herself did not drink much for she wanted to have a clear head should any unforeseen trouble or complications arise as a result of her raids.

Now that Helga's ship was far enough away to be out of danger should help arrive for the villagers, Helga's band began to drink, and carouse in celebration of the vast amount of slave prisoners and booty taken in the surprise raid of Princess Helena's territory. The celebrating became loud and raucous as the rapacious crew began to divide the spoils amongst themselves, keeping the strongest and biggest prisoners for their loot and allocating the weaker and puny victims for either the galleys or death.

Some of the crew decided to have some sport with the sick and weakly portion of prisoners left over after the divvy was made, by selecting two prisoners who were unable to earn their keep as slave labor as fit subjects to have some fun with. First the members of Helga's crew tied one prisoner to a catapult used for hurling stones and weapons at the enemy, making believe that they were going to use her to repel any enemy attack from the shore. The horrified girls' facial expressions made them laugh with glee at their terror, and then someone suggested it would be more fun if they bound two girls to the catapult and have twice the fun seeing which prisoner was the most terrified. It was great fun while it lasted, but eventually the drunken members of the crew grew tired of this sport and someone in stupor from too much drinking of wine pulled out her sword from its scabbard and with one fell swoop cut the rope holding back the catapult.



No one attempted to stop the intoxicated warrior from cutting the release on the catapult, and before any one realized what was happening the catapult shot the two hapless victims of the crewmember's macabre jest high into the air, and then into the briny deep.

This unfortunate incident struck terror to the eyes and hearts of the other victims bound hand and foot, helpless to interfere if they wanted to, for this was just a sample of the fate that lay in store for them in the future either as slaves or playthings for the victors. It looked like a grim, and future ahead for them, and some were thinking that perhaps a quick death would be better than a long life of slavery, and tyranny at the hands of their captors.

There was no rest for the weary and sore captives for Ingrid soon put them to work cleaning up the mess left by the victorious celebrants. Some captives were put to work in the galleys, while others were forced to get on their hands and knees and scrub the dirty decks of the ship while it was making its way back to Helga's fortress hideout. Some of the victors drank themselves into a drunken sleep while others whiled away the time gambling with each other for more slaves that would enrich their pockets when they were sold at the slave markets.

The captives were made to work hard and to add insult to injury, after they had scrubbed the decks clean, some of the crew members would come along and spit on both the deck, and the working girl slaves, then the overseer would pull the girl's hair, and make them clean it up all over again. The poor girls movements were hampered by heavy chains attached to their wrists, and connected to a neck collar of iron.

After a long and arduous voyage, Helga's ship reached their viking homeland and preparations were made to land the prisoners ashore. Proud and arrogant Helga stood on the deck of her ship, and watched the prisoners as they passed by her. Some of the slaves made futile attempts at escape, but the flat of the sword on their shoulders soon made them fall into the line of march. A few of the dissident future slaves tried to end it all by throwing themselves overboard in hopes of drowning, but Helga's crew were on the lookout, and soon brought them back, severely bound to prevent any further outbreaks.



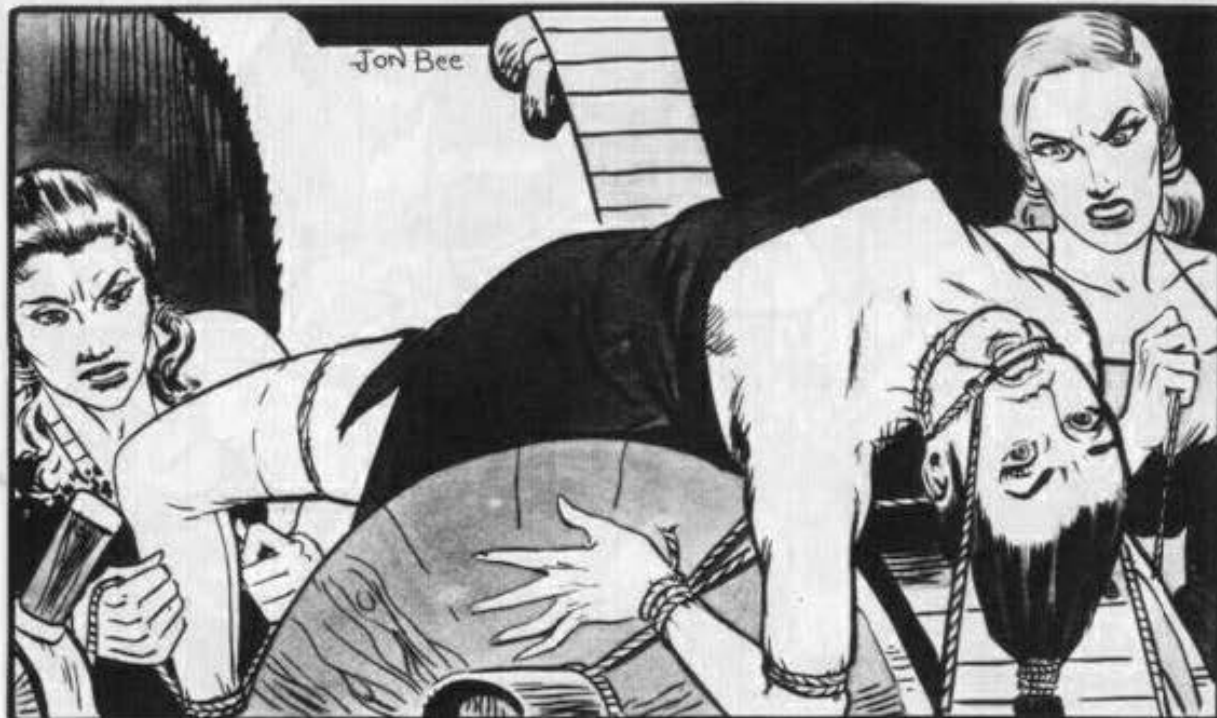


When Helga, and her marauding band of viking slave traders reached their strong hold where they kept the prisoners they captured on their raids on Euroma, and surrounding countries until they had sufficient amounts on hand for transportation to the slave markets, they received a frustrating surprise. Instead of finding a large quantity of prospective slaves on hand in readiness to be sold at high prices on the auction slave markets they found the great majority of them gone and in their places were some of their own viking women left behind as guards for the prisoners.

This was a shocking and humiliating experience for the girls who were supposed to watch the prisoners for not only were they bound hand and foot to the very instruments in which their former prisoners were bound too, but they could expect further punishment for being delinquent in their duties keeping the former prisoners from escaping. The infuriated Ingrid could hardly believe her eyes as she watched one of her helpers free the captain of the guards from a wheel rack that she was tied to.

The captain of the guards could barely talk even after her release from the wheel rack, for her hair had been bound to the turning wheel, and the gag across her mouth and her twisting and wriggling attempts to free herself only tended to push the gag further down her throat as well as tighten the slip noose around her neck. The noose had been cleverly arranged so that the more the captain turned and twisted, the tighter the noose would get on her neck.

Ingrid was struck dumb with amazement and disappointment as she gazed around and saw the empty shackles that formerly had held their prisoners, for she had counted on the rich prize money the prisoners would have brought as her share of the booty. Ingrid took her time in cutting down the imprisoned guards for she was very mad that the escape of the prisoners for the slave markets hadn't been prevented, and she put the blame naturally on the captain of the guard for sleeping on the job while she and Helga were away searching for more slaves to capture. Letting the other guards stew over their unhappy predicament bound and gagged like cattle instead of proud guards, Ingrid questioned the captain to find out how this had happened. The captain tried to put the blame on someone else's shoulders stating she had been taken unawares, and didn't know how it all happened. The captain knew that she was going to be severely punished for this mishap, and she was frightened.



This poor and lame answer did not satisfy Ingrid who proceeded to castigate the captain by dunking her head in a pail of dirty water to clear up her head, and tell the right answer as what had transpired during their search for slaves. Ingrid wanted to know why the captain was wearing the clothing of an Euroman person instead of the usual viking costume. The bewildered and perplexed captain sputtered, and fumed at this ill treatment for she felt that it was unwarranted since she had been taken by surprise, and really didn't know how it all happened.

The captain tried as best she could under the circumstances to tell the irate Ingrid what really had happened, but just as she was getting the words out, her head was dunked again in the slop water. This only complicated matters more, for the captain then got more angry, and quarreled further with Ingrid that it wasn't the captain's fault at all, but the work of an inside spy in their ranks.

After a while Ingrid calmed down and the captain related the full details of how the prisoners had been freed. As the captain was making her rounds to see that everything was well, she bent down to inspect the ropes binding a Euroma captive, and while her back was turned a gloved hand was clasped tightly across her mouth stifling her cries for help. Next the captain felt a hard blow on her head and then she blacked out as she felt her viking headgear and captain's uniform being removed.

The next thing she knew the captain told Ingrid that she woke up to find she had been undressed and the rags of a slave prisoner substituted for her own clothing. The captain's uniform had been placed on a released prisoner, who using the captain's uniform as a ruse had waylaid and taken prisoner the remaining guards watching the Euroma prisoner. The unexpected surprise releasing of the prisoners on hand had happened so suddenly that no one could give a very good description of the spy who had effected the escape.

Each guard had a different version of the proceedings, but all agreed that the ringleader had been wearing a black leather helmet which hid the features of the girl doing the rescuing. Not one of the guards recalled ever seeing this girl or unusual costume before, and so believed that it must have been some one from an alien country doing a hijacking job on her own.





One of the guards captured by the intruder that had released the Euroma captives gave Helga and Ingrid a very good description of the intruder, while she was being tied up, and stripped of her uniform, she had taken a good look at her tormentor. Whoever she was the guard couldn't tell for the black leather helmet hid the girl's features well, but there was an insignia emblem of a falcon symbolic of the regime of Princess Helena of Euroma on both the helmet and belt of the intruder.

This intruder was wearing a costume of black kid leather that extended from the top of her black leather boots all the way up to her neck. There was a highly polished sheen on her knee boots which had a vicious set of spurs around the ankles which denoted that she had come to Helga's hideout by horseback. With her sharp pointed sword, the black costumed invader cut the cords binding a slave who was hanging on the wall, her toes bound to a ringbolt in the floor. In the places after divesting her of her uniform which the released girl put on.

The use of the viking uniforms put the unwary guards off guard making them fall easy prey to the escaping slaves led by the intruder. It was a bitter pill for the guards to swallow, on finding the tables turned with them as prisoners now instead of the slave girls. There was no question of doubt that the escape had been cleverly planned, and executed by a very shrewd antagonist who knew her way around Helga's dungeons. That meant that some one in their own organization was a spy, and was passing on information that was detrimental to Helga, and her slave traders.

In order to find out who the traitor was, Helga posted a large reward for the capture, and execution of the leather costumed intruder. By offering a huge amount of money, Helga hoped that some greedy person would pass along information leading to the capture of this insolent intruder who had robbed her of her many prisoners. Love of money had led to the betrayal of others in the past, and by creating a desire for the many pieces of gold, Helga thought that not only could she regain the lost slaves, but also the head of the party responsible for their escape.

The viking camp soon buzzed with all sorts of false leads, and rumors, with everyone casting suspicious eyes at each other, but the trail seemed to lead nowhere. Dissension soon broke out with no one trusting the other, bloody battles starting up accusing each other of being in the enemy's pay.



The mysterious leather costumed intruder who had freed the many slaves that Helga and her cohorts had planned to sell was a serious threat to Helga's plans, and she must be found out by all means stormed Helga. As a way of finding out, Helga made another series of surprise raids on her neighbor country recapturing some of the prisoners who had escaped before with the aid of the mystery agent.

These recaptured prisoners then were put to a grueling series of torments to get them to reveal who was the mysterious benefactor. Even though Helga's minions made life a living hell for them, they refused to tell who had been responsible for their escape from Helga's fortress. When milder means failed to obtain the requested information, then Helga had to resort to more stringent measures to get them to betray the girl in the all-leather costume.

Even these harsh methods failed to shake the escapees from revealing the source of their short-lived freedom. Throwing caution to the wind when all her other efforts failed, Helga ordered one of the girls bound to a long pole and dipped into a large vat of boiling oil. This was a desperate last minute measure to get the girl to talk or suffer the consequences.

The threat of being boiled alive in oil began to have a telling effect on the poor girl's tongue for she saw that Helga meant business and would not be deterred from carrying out her threat. All the harmed girl could tell Helga was the name of the spy who was working inside Helga's hideout and had aided the mysterious girl in letting the prisoners escape. She had never seen the mysterious girl's face for it had been hidden all the while behind the leather helmet mask.





## HELGA'S SEARCH FOR SLAVES – BOOK ONE

Now that Helga knew who the inside spy in her organization of cutthroats was, she put plans in action to decoy the mysterious girl in leather into her clutches. A message was left at a rendezvous tree signed with the inside spy's name (whose name was Lori) outlining a way the newly captured prisoners could be freed.

To make sure that both Lori and Elsa, who had told on Lori, were telling the truth, Helga put them both through a strenuous ordeal. Elsa's mouth was tied with a rough cord that was knotted around her neck and affixed to bolts in the floor which led to a hand winch. Her hair was tied to another cord that ran through a pulley line and wound around a core of the winch.

Turning the winch put pressure on Elsa's hair as well as making the cord gag bite into the corners of her mouth giving her the feeling that her cheeks were being pulled apart from her jaws. After Lori had undergone a similar ordeal and both stories checked out the same, Helga knew that they were telling the truth about the mysterious invader. Lori and Elsa were then put into the chain gang to work at hard labor.

Jubilant over the knowledge she had obtained from the two girls, Helga for sport told Lori that Elsa had been the one who had squealed on her and pitted them together in a grudge fight. The delighted onlookers shouted with glee as the two girls fought to death with their bare hands. Another interested onlooker was the mysterious girl in leather. She had received the decoy message left by Helga and had come to the fortress to investigate the supposed plan to free more of Helga's prisoners. The mysterious girl tried to sneak away unnoticed but she was overpowered by superior odds as she tried a getaway. She could not fight alone against so many of Helga's cohorts who were on the lookout for her.



Helga told her followers to be sure to take the mysterious intruder alive, if possible, as she wanted to gloat over her before putting her to death. Helga was most happy to capture the mysterious girl in leather who had been such a thorn in her side for so long. She urged her cohorts to bind and gag the intruder securely and bring her to her knees before Helga. With a pointed sword in her back, the girl in leather meekly let herself be bound and gagged.

Triumphantly, Helga watched her viking followers bind the girl's hands behind her back, roughing her up unnecessarily, but not enough to maim her. The viking girls bound the girl's forearms just above the elbows extremely tight so that the circulation of the blood would be cut off leaving her weak and helpless.

Pulling the now thoroughly subdued girl by the hair towards her, Helga jabbed her with the point of a sword and taunted her. "How could you be so dumb as to fall for our phony message. I'm going to make you pay dearly for each and every one of the prisoners that you helped escape," said Helga. "We know you are the one responsible for freeing the slaves. Now my once proud antagonist, let's see what you look like. I want all my followers to see what you look like. Before I am finished with you even your own mother will not be able to recognize you."

Helga pulled off the leather mask from the girl's face that was hiding her identity as she was most anxious to see who it was. Much to Helga's amazement and delight, the mysterious stranger turned out to be the owner of the trained falcon which had scarred Helga for life.





Now that Helga knew that the mysterious intruder was her arch enemy and foe, Princess Helena of Normandia, whose pet falcon had disfigured Helga for life, she planned for revenge in a similar fashion, but in a slow, lingering, painful way instead of a quick and easy death. Helga ordered Ingrid to prepare Princess Helena for an ordeal of disfiguration by Helga's trained falcon, whom Ingrid helped train in anticipation of the day when Princess Helena would fall into their clutches.

Ingrid bound Helena onto a stretch apparatus, with the thumb of the left hand tied to the wooden roller that pulled in the opposite direction as the wheel was turned slowly. Over Helena's face was placed a punishment type of helmet usually used for meditation, with space cut out to leave the eyes and forehead open for the falcon's attack. The falcon had been trained to scratch and tear at all parts of the victim's face exposed to her talons and beak.

Helplessly tied and unable to move out of danger, Princess Helena faced certain marring of her beauty without showing signs of fear. The falcon flew toward Helena with open claws.



Just in the nick of time as Helga's falcon flew over Helena's face to tear her eyes to ribbons, out of nowhere it seemed came the whirr of flying wings and feathers began to fly as Princess Helena's pet falcon swooped down on Helga's falcon. Helena's falcon had been waiting for an opportune moment to come to the aid of its mistress and beat Helga's trained falcon in a furious battle which attracted all of Helga's followers.

Furious at the thwarting of her plans to mar Helena's face, Helga ruthlessly cut off the winning falcon's neck with one stroke of her sword after it killed her falcon. Helga then ordered that Helena was now to be subjected to a different siege of violence. She had Princess Helena's boots stripped off her feet so that her bare feet were exposed and ground glass strewn on the floor, after Helena had been bound to a bizarre swivel machine. The swivel machine worked on gears that catapulted a battering ram against Helena's back while pushing her feet down on finely ground glass on the floor.

The brave girl managed to bear up under this terrific ordeal for she knew help was on its way. Helena had suspected a trick, when Helga's cohort left a note for her, and deliberately planned to have herself captured. By distracting Helga's followers, who most certainly would leave their posts to watch Helga wreak vengeance on her, Helena hoped to overcome the few guards left.





Princess Helena's followers surprise attack met unexpected stiff resistance from Helga's band of slavers, who were overpowered after a hard delaying struggle. This delay upset Helena's timetable, thus perilling her life as Helga went on with her revenge. It was a bitter blow to Ingrid's pride as Princess Helena's forces overwhelmed her viking followers and she herself was captured.

Binding the vikings took more time as the prisoners were to be bound and gagged before they could go on the search for Princess Helena. It was a race against time, for the longer it took to overcome the viking slave traders the less chance there was of Princess Helena surviving Helga's expected strenuous ordeals. The shouts of Helga's blood-thirsty cohorts and the roars of hungry animals led Helena's surprise attackers to the dungeons deep down in the castle. They were horrified to see Princess Helena dangling a few feet above a pack of wolves trying to tear her to pieces.

Helga then ordered that Helena be thrown to the wolves. She tied Helena's wrists together so that she couldn't fend off the wolves and suspended her by a rope just a few feet above the animals' lair. Helena's followers soon dispatched the wolves and saved Helena from almost certain death.



Princess Helena's followers subdued the balance of Helga's surprised cohorts and the once haughty leader was now a helpless prisoner herself and her search for slaves was now a thing of the past. Her ignominious defeat at the hands of her despised enemy was a bitter pill for her to swallow as Princess Helena banned her to work at hard labor for the balance of her life.

Stripped of her power and now a sullen faced slave herself, Helga bitterly reflected her fate as Princess Helena inspected the bonds on Helga's hands to make sure they were secure. Though she deserved death for her many crimes, Helena did not believe in capital punishment so she was led away to slave at hard work until death released her from her imprisonment.

Helga was chained to the giant water wheel in the prison, alongside her former helper Ingrid, who was also sentenced to life imprisonment for her harsh treatment of the former slaves. Princess Helena had not forgotten the other crimes by the other conspirators, and saw to it that all were punished for their many acts of violence against the citizens of Normandia.

END OF BOOK ONE





A few years rolled by and Helga tired of the drudgery imposed on her by her imprisonment by Princess Helena and she became quite rebellious and unruly, refusing to obey the prison guards' instructions. The prison guards did not know that by acting up in this manner Helga was hoping to be moved to another cell where she hoped to bribe a guard.



The guards gave Helga rough treatment in quieting her, stuffing a slimy cloth gag into her mouth to keep her quiet, tying it tightly around her head till it cut the corners of her mouth. After the gag was in place, they put a blindfold over her eyes and moved her to the isolation ward, which was what Helga wanted as there was a certain guard who could be bribed to let her get a note out to her friends.

When the friends arrived with money and weapons, the bribed guard let Helga and a few cohort prisoners plan an escape at an opportune occasion. The night for the attempted escape soon arrived on a holiday when only a skeleton force of guards was on hand for guard duty. It had taken a long time making the necessary escape preparations and at last Helga's hopes were realized. The bribed guard told Helga to tie her up.



Helga released a few of the other prisoners including her former assistant and they changed their prison garb for guards' uniforms. The bribed guard had been most cooperative so that Helga could trap the guard taking food into the prison cells who had the keys that opened the locks on the doors.

One poor guard that was unlucky enough to run into Helga was strung up by her heels and left hanging there in mid-air as Helga made her way to the other cells where members of the crew were imprisoned.



In one fell swoop, Helga hoped to free her entire band of marauders so that she could continue on with her slave trading in other lands. Helga's cohorts had been waiting for their release impatiently, knowing that plans had been laid by Helga for their escape with her. The crew members were thirsting for freedom and retaliation on the guards.





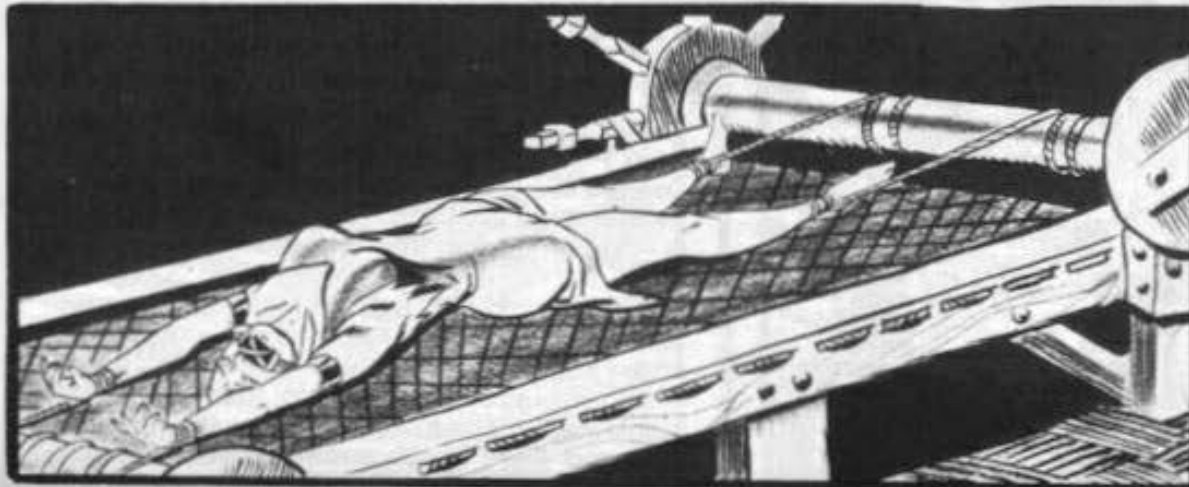


Since there was only a skeleton force of guards on duty because of a national holiday, Helga's escape was made much easier. After Helga had increased her army of escapees with the original members of her own band of cut-throats, who were in the same prison but in different sections, the wily Queen of slave traders banded them together to make the final push to freedom.

There were still a few members of her former crew that had to be liberated first so that they could have a sufficient crew to run a boat that they would need to flee Helena's domain. A few of these crew members had been very recalcitrant, so that they had been punished by various disciplinary measures.

One former crew member of Helga's band had been put on a stretch rack for insubordination which had been planned so that the members of Helga's crew could all be placed together in the punishment isolation section of the prison. Since Helga needed these viking girls to sail her ship that was lying in the harbor immobilized with just the galley slaves manning it supervised by just a few guards.

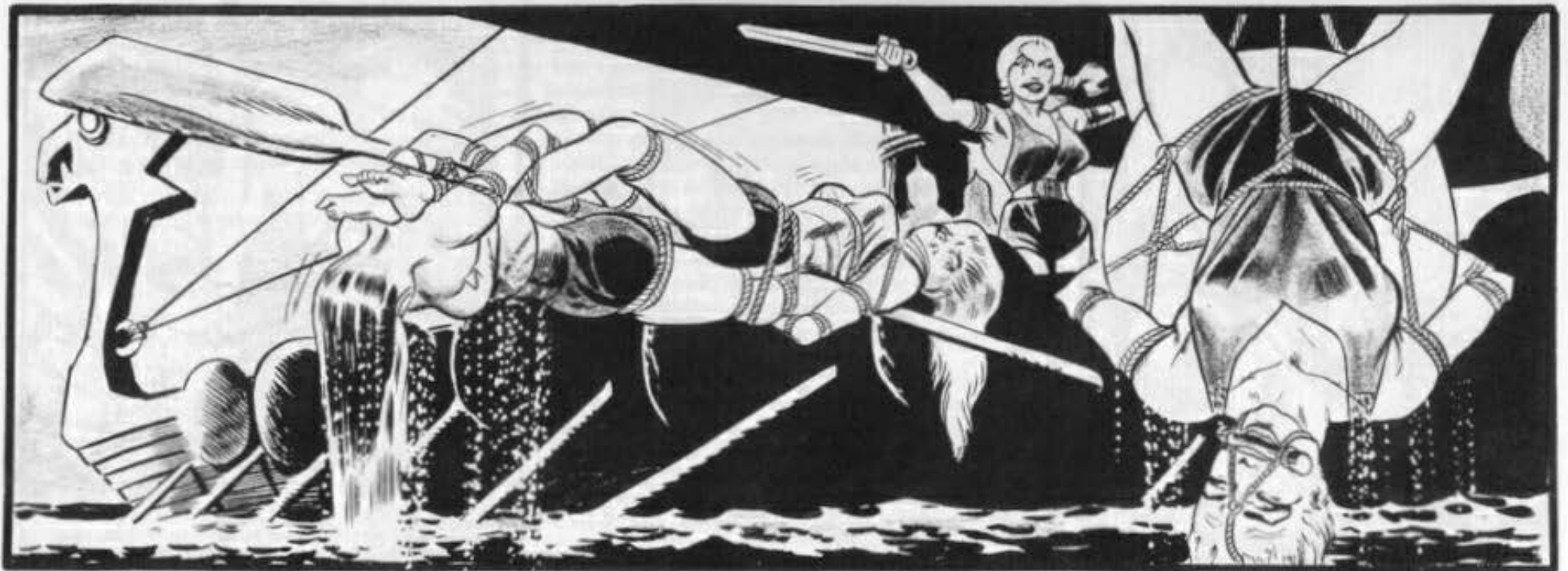
Rounding up the crew took more time than expected since the former members were in various punishment devices because of their calculated misbehavior. Two viking girls had been put one on top of the other with their legs bound intertwined so that the heavy boulder above them applied pressure on the back of one girl who in turn had to press down on the second girl in order to ease the pressure. Now all that remained was recapturing her slave ship.



Backed by her augmented band of escaping prisoners Helga led the way to the harbor where her former ship was anchored. The battle for the slave ship was short and bitter as the ex-prisoners fought with great fury having the incentive of being free once more when the ship was taken and they could get away from the enemy territory.

The galley slave crew chained to the oars made ready to take off for their homeland under Helga's command. For revenge, some of the galley slaves at the oars bound some guards to the long oars in retaliation for some fancied and real causes during their enforced imprisonment by Princess Helena. As the oars dipped into the dirty salt water the guards were doused, being pulled up just in time to avoid being drowned.

Helga's captured ship sailed away with its load of captured guards who would be sold in the slave markets once Helga was out of danger from Princess Helena's followers. Once more Helga was on her way in search for slaves to replenish her depleted stock for trade.







Helga was very happy that her crew of renegades were able to overpower the few guards left on her old ship and set sail for her homeland. The members of the galley slaves who had been chained to the long oars were also jubilant over being able to exchange places with the followers of Princess Helena who were forced to take their places bound to the oar locks.

Those who were crippled in the battle were bound and gagged before being thrown overboard. They were used as a delaying tactic, should Princess Helena's soldiers be able to launch a ship in time to chase Helga and her band of escaped slave traders. Helga wanted to put as much space as she could between her and Princess Helena's country until the time came when she had a strong enough force to warrant invading Helena's country again.

Princess Helena rushed down to the sea shore with a strong group of soldiers too late to stop Helga from making good her escape. She vowed revenge on Helga for her ruthless tactics in destroying valuable property and killing so many of her followers needlessly in her mad haste to escape. Even harmless unarmed country people who made no attempt to stop Helga and her followers from escaping were bound to trees with heavy rocks slung around headpieces to delay the princess who had to stop and rescue her people.





Once more Helga began her raids on foreign soil gathering women for sale in the slave markets. Helga began a series of hit-and-run raids preying on defenseless women who were not at war with her country. There was no one country safe from her band of marauding slave traders and soon the viking girls became the most feared band in the world.

Helga spared no time in replenishing her lost fortune with the sale of these slave girls, often travelling in the still of the night to far distant lands and seizing any victims who were unlucky enough to cross her path. They bound and blindfolded these hapless girls and made them make a forced march back to Helga's waiting slave ships.

When they reached the ship, they were put into bondage and made to bow before their new mistress as a sign of complete submission to her commands. One of the new slave girls refused to bow to her conqueror, which enraged Helga so much that she had her bound to the mast in the hot sun. When the huge slave refused to obey or comply with Helga's orders, Helga slapped her around soundly in an effort to make her comply.







Helga tried with all her might to convince the huge girl to bow to her demands and join her in a fight for the finish she planned shortly on Princess Helena's kingdom when she had sufficient money and a powerful attacking force. When the strong, stalwart girl refused to join her forces, Helga then tried other means to persuade her but these also failed because the girl had a loyalty to Helena for past favors.

Helga then laid plans to sell this giantess to the highest bidder in the nearby slave market auctions a short distance away. Helga had to sell her cargo of slaves in order to obtain money to wage war against her arch enemy Princess Helena. She needed the money to pay for guns, ammunition and strong warriors to help her start her offensive against Helena. As Helga needed a large warrior force, she would have to strike some sort of bargain with Princess Helena's neighboring rulers as she would need all the help she could get if she wanted to take Helena's territory over.

Annoyed and infuriated because the giantess would have been the equal of at least two of her own renegade slave traders, Helga tried again to get the giantess to work with her forces. When her tactics failed Helga then decided to sell the giantess for whatever price she could bring on the slave market. No longer interested in the giantess' welfare, Helga put her through a series of ordeals that would have broken a weaker girl. After suffering by hanging upside down on the sail, the giantess was relieved when Helga's ship reached the city of slave auctions.





Arriving at the slave auction marts, the giantess who had refused to join Helga's forces in her planned attack on Princess Helena's stronghold was one of the first girls sold as a slave. The giantess had to be tied very securely so that her immense strength didn't break the cords that bound her. Her struggles to free herself from the bondage only made the bidding grow more spirited for her, as the buyers liked strong, healthy slaves to work for them.

Helga was very pleased by the heavy bidding for her batch of slaves, for that meant more money she would have to wage her war against Princess Helena. The money would go to pay for the best Amazonic warriors that she could obtain, as money was the main requisite needed to get the girl warrior fighters to merge with her new fighting forces in the planned attack to come on Helga's land.

The soldiers-of-fortune that Helga needed for her planned attack would work for anyone provided the price was right. They would take anyone's side in a battle if they were paid enough. It didn't matter to these soldiers-of-fortune whether the side they were on paid them good money to fight for them.

They agreed on a price and Helga, while not too happy over their fees, went with her new followers to obtain more slaves to help defray the added expenses of her new cohort. Helena's neighbors signed a treaty with Helga to help Helga's attack on the promise that Helga would give up half of Helena's territory to be divided amongst the neighbors. With this aid promised her, Helga became more reckless and ruthless in her search for additional slaves. Helga needed only a few more guns before her attack.







In order to obtain the needed guns and said she sorely needed for her attack on Helena's stronghold, as well as a nearby base for her operations for battle, Helga signed an agreement with the Duchess of Weshire. The Duchess' territory adjoined Princess Helena and she, too, was envious of Helena and coveted Helena's ground. Helga had to agree to turn over more territory to the Duchess of Weshire than she had planned, but after the battle was won Helga figured that she could pull a double-cross on the Duchess.

Helga and her new cohorts planned a big feast on the eve of battle for Princess Helena's territory so that she and the Duchess could go over the plans for their attack. Meanwhile, the two warrior bands joined together to make sport with the hapless followers of Princess Helena that they captured to obtain information from as to the weakest part of Helena's territory they could attack.

Naturally these victims could give very little information other than that which Helga and the Duchess already knew, but it helped get warriors into a better frame of mind to do battle with the enemy if they had sport before the big battle began. Three of Helena's followers were made to fight each other on a raised narrow platform built atop the festive table where Helga and her ally toasted each other with wine. The object was to see who could emerge as the victor after binding the other two girls with the most rope. The girl with the least rope binding her was to be the butt of the evening's entertainment. It would not go easy on the loser for in this grim sport the loser's life was the forfeit.



Jon Bee



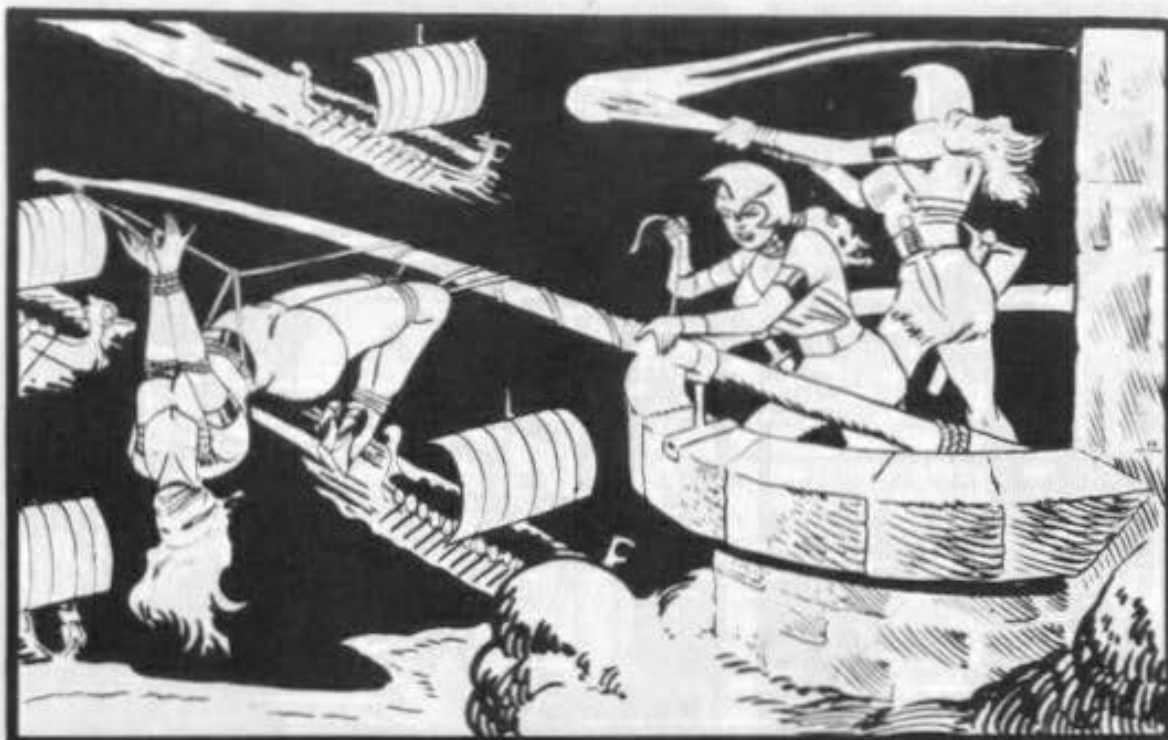
While Helga was busy signing a mutual defense pact with Helga's greedy neighbors, one of her spies was caught rifling the map room attempting to steal a map of Helena's coastal area. When Helena was told of the attempted theft of her maps, she knew that something big in the way of an attack was imminent.

Helena gave orders that the thief, recognized as one of Helga's ardent followers, was to be questioned thoroughly as to what was brewing in Helga's camp. At first, the girl withstood a grueling questioning session but began to weaken when the stretch rack was brought into play.

She divulged all the plans of Helga's planned attack on Helena's stronghold, but could not give a definite time when the attack would start. This forewarning of Helga's planned treachery was all Helena needed to know to prepare her followers to defend themselves. Helena set up barriers of sturdy oak panels at all entrances of her castle, hoping they would foil Helga in her attempt to wrest Helena's domain from her.







Helga did not wait for all her spies to report back to her before starting her attack on Princess Helena's castle stronghold. Helga figured that the element of surprise would strike a telling blow in disorganizing Helena's forces, making them fall easy prey to Helga's savage hordes of viking warriors.

The invaders used huge battering rams to break down the barricades set up in front of Helena's castle. These battering rams had been carried by boat for the purpose of tearing the wooden stockades around Helena's castle to pieces. Helga had fastened the chains and bonds of some of the slave girls to the battering ram and urged them on to greater efforts to break down the outer defenses of Helena's stronghold.

Helga's viking girls' strong thrusts broke the outer walls like egg shells in her onslaught of Helena's castle but not without a severe loss of her warriors. Helga stood in the thick of battle exhorting her followers to take the castle no matter what the cost as she was thirsting for her arch enemy's blood on her sword blade.





Helga brought up her crack shock troops to continue the assault on Princess Helena's stronghold. It seemed that the battle was turning against Helga, for her troops of viking warriors and helpers from the nearby countries were being driven back by Helena's superior-trained forces.

In a vain attempt to keep her warriors from retreating, Helga had them tied arm to arm in a line so that none could fall back or run away. They were all bound in such a way that they could swing their swords and battle axes but if they retreated then they faced certain death from Helga and her associates who would run them through with their swords.

The battle became a free-for-all, with Helga in the foreground trying to rally her followers forward in hand-to-hand combat. Helena, too, was in the thick of battle waiting for the chance to get at her rival in a battle to death. It was only a matter of time before the two hated enemy leaders would meet once more with death for the loser. Each of the two leaders were biding their time before engaging in mortal combat with each other.







Helga's troops were being routed by Helena's well-trained forces, and the element of surprise was now in Helena's favor instead of Helga. Every move that Helga had carefully planned out seemed to be thought of by Helena and counteracted by her forces being in the right place to defend the stronghold.

It soon became clear that someone had known of Helga's plot and had given away her plans. Helga was amazed to see the giantess slave, which she had recently sold, now fighting for Helena. Then it dawned on her that the giantess slave had been "planted" on her to find out Helga's plans, which was why Helga's warriors were being defeated. Helga's troops, under the influence of whiskey, had been indiscreet in discussing her plans in front of the slaves that were to be sold, not thinking that any harm could come from talking in front of helpless slaves.

The giantess was sold to a friend of Helena's who in turn gave her back to Helena. In the ensuing battle the giantess proved to be worth three times her weight in gold not only for the information she gave but for her fighting prowess.





The tide of battle turned against Helga and her cohorts with Princess Helena's forces routing Helga's disorganized forces. Even Helga met her match in the desperate hand-to-hand struggle being captured by alive by Helena's battling forces. Helga was forced to surrender when a wild swing broke her sword, leaving her at the mercy of her captors.

In disgrace, Helga was paraded through the streets of the town she had attempted to capture, bound and gagged to a wagon. It was a most humiliating and anguishing defeat for the once proud and arrogant viking chieftain. The happy victors threw stones and mud at the outstretched Helga who was made all the more uncomfortable by a turning blunted spoke wheel which jabbed itself into her stomach as the wagon rolled along the bumpy streets.

Helga's suffering was very acute for she had boasted that she would drag Helena through the streets of the town on her hands and knees in defeat, and instead the tables were reversed and she was the defeated person. It was a bitter pill for her to swallow as she had thought that she was going to overpower Helena and make her a slave.







Helga's trial was short and she was quickly sentenced by Princess Helena to the same degrading fate that Helga would have meted out to Helena. Helga was ordered chained to one of her own battering rams and made to crawl up and down the streets of Helena's town on her hands and knees removing the debris of battle piece by piece with her own hands.

Thus, the career of the tyrannical ill-fated would-be ruler was tumbled down to ignominious disaster for her. The by now completely humbled leader of the vikings was jeered all along the route she was forced to travel, with the townspeople deliberately strewing her path with bits of rubble which cut and scratched her sore and aching knees and feet.

The hard chains bound to Helga's ankles and hands hampered her free movements her task of cleaning the streets all the more difficult. No one lifted a finger to ease her pain and misery as she wended her weary way of cleaning the mess her cupidity had caused.

THE END

